

**STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL**

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**MINUTES  
MECHANICAL, VENTILATION AND  
ENERGY CODES COMMITTEE**

**Date:** June 9, 2005  
**Location:** Spokane Downtown Public Library

**Committee Members Present:** Peter DeVries, Chair; Kristyn Clayton; Stephen George; John Neff; Dale Wentworth

**Committee Members Absent:** Mari Hamasaki

**Visitors Present:** Ed Fields, Wayne Marquess

**Staff Present:** Krista Braaksma, Tim Nogler

**CALL TO ORDER**

Peter DeVries, Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Mechanical, Ventilation and Energy (MVE) Codes Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

The agenda was reviewed and approved as written.

**ENERGY CODE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) REPORT**

Kristyn Clayton, TAG Chair, said the TAG has met twice and set a very aggressive meeting schedule to compare the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Washington State Energy Code (WSEC). The TAG's meeting day is alternate Fridays, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kristyn expects light, initial attendance at meetings to increase as the workload is defined. She said the long history of TAG members' participation in energy code work and the high level of their expertise make the code comparison process lengthy. By the end of July, Kristyn expects to have a better feel about the conclusion of TAG work.

## **Proposed Statewide Amendments**

Two meetings ago the Energy Code TAG reviewed proposed statewide amendments. Three were submitted by Patrick Hayes. The TAG recommends that all three be disapproved. Kristyn said they lack validation, with proposed numbers not being defensible.

The first proposal amends Section 101.3.2, Application of Existing Buildings. Kristyn said this amendment was disapproved by the TAG because it mandates building official approval, with no flexibility. The second proposal adds a footnote to Table 5-1 dealing with concrete masonry walls. Kristyn said while this amendment works well for nonresidential buildings, it does not work for residential buildings. Again, the proposed numbers are arbitrary. The third and final proposal was disapproved because it eliminates the requirement for slab on grade insulation in Tables 13-1 and 13-2 of the nonresidential code.

### **Motion #1**

**Stephen George moved that the Mechanical, Ventilation and Energy Codes Committee accept the Energy Code TAG recommendation to disapprove Proposed Statewide Amendments #05-007, 05-008 and 05-009. Dale Wentworth seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

## **IECC Review**

Kristyn said that format to be followed in the code comparison was established at the last meeting. Before beginning the six-to-nine-month comparison, Kristyn laid out three options facing the TAG: to adopt the IECC without amendment, to adopt it with amendment, and to not adopt the IECC. There was strong agreement to not adopt the IECC unless it is amended.

Kristyn said last time the IECC was compared with the WSEC, she was a member of the Energy Code TAG and involved in the effort. Many of the TAG members are the same as before. Previous staff did a significant amount of data formatting, which is not possible this time because of reduced Council staff. As a result, data compilation and formatting work has been divided among subTAGs this time.

Another difference between this review and the previous one is in the finished product. The TAG plans to be in a position to select between the IECC and the WSEC by the end of 2005. It plans to know the volume of amendments needed to correlate the IECC with the WSEC. However the exact wording of those amendments won't be composed and refined until 2006. Yet another difference from the previous code comparison is philosophical. The TAG is beginning with the IECC this time, with the intent of amending it so that it can be adopted by the Council in lieu of the WSEC. Krista Braaksma asked about the International Residential Code (IRC). Kristyn answered that code will also be compared with the WSEC after the IECC.

John Neff told Kristyn that he's received phone calls that were exceptionally complimentary of her chairmanship of the Energy Code TAG.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Kristyn said Krista has received feedback about a potential problem with new language in Section 1423 relating to economizers. That language, contrary to its intent, requires economizers on single-family residential air conditioning units. Kristyn said the TAG reviewed and reworked draft amendatory language to exempt smaller units in Group R occupancies. She distributed the draft language and asked, assuming the Committee adopts it, whether it should be by regular or emergency rulemaking. Several inquiries have already been made, and it is an inadvertent error. Tim Nogler said that, if the desire is to enter emergency rulemaking, the Council tomorrow needs to decide that the amendatory language is necessary for the immediate public health and safety.

John Neff commented that a mechanical engineer with Sunset Air contacted him about Section 1423 requirements. He asked if he should sell an economizer when it's not needed and will never turn on, recommend installation of a HVAC unit now and an air conditioning unit later without a permit, or what? He said that there are some building officials who go strictly by the book. If the code requires it, it must be there whether it turns on or not. John and Kristyn both noted that an interpretation is not appropriate in this instance.

### **Motion #1:**

**Dale Wentworth moved that the Mechanical, Ventilation and Energy Codes Committee recommend the draft language of the proposed amendment to Section 1423 of the Washington State Energy Code to the Council tomorrow for emergency rulemaking. Stephen George seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.**

Tim advised Kristyn that funding is available for consultant analysis if found necessary to complete the code comparison work on schedule. Kristyn thanked him, saying that may be very helpful. John suggested that, since this is a special project, a contract may be entered with the WSU Extension Service for some of the comparison work. Kristyn noted that Chuck Murray is an Energy Code TAG member, who's currently very actively involved. John said that more help may be gained. Kristyn noted that Ecotope is also conducting a similar study.

Peter thanked Kristyn for all her time and hard work on the TAG.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Lacking further business, Peter adjourned the MVE Codes Committee at 3:25 p.m.